## **Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 5 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 10 with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- The aluminosilicate of the present invention includes materials termed "synthetic allophane" or "allophane like." Synthetic allophane is typically in the form of substantially spherically or ring shaped aluminosilicate particles, including hollow spherical aluminosilicate particles, preferably having an average diameter of between 3.5 and 5.5 nm. In addition, synthetic allophanes, like natural allophanes, are substantially amorphous (P. Bayliss, Can. Mineral. Mag., 1987, 327), compared to, for example, imogolites which are crystalline and fibril shaped. Synthetic allophane differs from natural allophane (such as Allophosite® sold by Sigma) in that it does not contain iron. It may also be more amorphous and acidic. --